

# Do You Suspect a Drug Endangered Child?



## What to look for:

- Evidence of children in the home
- Evidence of physical, sexual, mental abuse of children
- Child's appearance (e.g., poor overall hygiene, including dental; inappropriate or insufficient clothing; etc.)
- Drugs and/or drug paraphernalia
- Weapons (e.g., guns, knives, etc.)
- Pornography/sex paraphernalia
- Chemicals
- Any strong odors
- Food availability in refrigerator and cupboards
- Sleeping conditions/arrangements
- Fire hazards
- Pest and animal hazards (e.g., rodents, roaches, feces, etc.)
- Poor home conditions
  - Building code violations
  - Exposed wiring
  - Broken windows
  - Holes in flooring or wall
  - Functional utilities (water, gas, air)
  - Presence of mold
- Evidence, or lack thereof, of school attendance

**\*\*If you suspect a Meth lab – get out, call Hazmat\*\***

## Law Enforcement Steps to Take:

- Notify Supervisor/NARC unit
- Contact Child Protective Services (CPS)
- Document all evidence
  - Record smells
  - Take pictures, measurements
  - Videotape home, surroundings
  - Record interviews, if standard practice
- Establish who lives in the home
- Establish caretaker
- Interview neighbors
- Coordinate interview of children with CPS
  - Remember to be child-friendly (i.e., no leading questions)
  - Encourage the children to draw pictures
- Follow established medical protocols
- Charge child crime (endangerment charge) as applicable
- Decontaminate (as needed)

## Child Protective Services Steps to Take:

- Respond in a timely manner
- Coordinate investigative steps with law enforcement
- Obtain general description of home environment, including:
  - environmental hazards,
  - children's access to drugs,
  - pictures and measurements, etc.
- Share case history, family history, and prior history with CPS with law enforcement
- Document all evidence (record interviews, if standard practice)
- Establish who lives in the home
- Establish caretaker
- Interview neighbors
- Coordinate interview of child with law enforcement
  - Remember to be child-friendly (i.e., no leading questions)
  - Encourage the children to draw pictures
- Arrange transport of child
- Follow established medical protocols

## Additional Resources:

Fire • Enforcement • EMS • Hazmat • Compensation Medical • Welfare Fraud

**For more information on drug endangered children, visit our web site  
[www.NationalIDEC.org](http://www.NationalIDEC.org)**



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